

REMARKS

In the Claim Amendments, changes are indicated by ~~strikethrough~~ for deleted matter and underlining for added matter. For deletions of five characters or fewer, or where ~~strikethrough~~ cannot be easily perceived, extra portions of text are included before and/or after text being deleted, all in ~~strikethrough~~, followed by the changed portion and extra text all underlined.

For clarity, the headings used in these remarks conform generally to the headings used by the Examiner with respect to objections and rejections in the Detailed Action. In this response, references to claim line numbers are to the claims as they were prior to any amendments referred to herein.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The Examiner has objected to claims 1, 6, 13 and 19, as being indefinite due to the inclusion of the phrase, "may be". Applicant notes that originally-filed claims 4, 5 and 8, also contain the phrase "may be".

In a 5 January 2005 telephone discussion, the Examiner confirmed that replacing "may be" with "is operable" or "are operable", as required, would be acceptable.

As set out above in the Amendments to the Claims section and in what follows, claims 1, 6 and 13 have been amended, and claim 19 has been canceled, responsive to the Examiner's objection; and claims 4, 5 and 8 have been voluntarily amended. Claims 1, 5-6, 8 and 13 have been amended as discussed with the Examiner. The amendment to claim 4 is not the same form of amendment as was discussed with the Examiner, but applicant submits that the amendment to claim 4 satisfactorily removes any indefiniteness there may have been in claim 4.

The claims have been amended by:

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1. in claim 1:
 - a) at line 13, replacing ~~may be used~~ with are operable; and
 - b) at lines 15 and 17, replacing each instance of ~~may be used~~ with is operable;
2. at line 3 of claim 4, replacing ~~may be rotated~~ with is rotatable; and
3. at line 3 of claim 5, at line 4 of claim 6, at line 2 of claim 8, and at line 2 of claim 13, replacing ~~may be~~ with is operable to be.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102 and Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner has objected to claims 1-4, 6, 8, 11-13 and 17-19 as being anticipated by US Patent No. 2,301,994 (Atkinson, issued 6 May 1992), but has stated that claims 5, 7, 9, 10 and 14-16 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Without conceding that the Examiner's rejection of claims 1-4, 6, 8, 11-13 and 17-19 is valid, and reserving the right to reassert these and other claims in a subsequent derivative application or applications, in the interest of obtaining a patent relatively quickly, the applicant has amended the claims as suggested by the Examiner and has incorporated the subject matter of originally-filed claim 15 into currently-amended claim 1, as set out above in the Amendments to the Claims section.

Specifically, responsive to the Examiner's § 102 objection, the claims have been amended by:

1. in line 8 of claim 1, inserting the following after "reel"
and wherein the attaching means are moveable along the length of the reel so as to permit adjustment of the space between the distal portions of the lift lines;

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2. canceling claim 15;
3. in line 1 of claim 16, replacing ~~claim 15~~ with claim 1; and
4. canceling claim 19.

Applicant submits that as currently-amended claim 1 is allowable, the claims dependent from it, claims 2-14 and 16-18 as amended herein, are also allowable.

Applicant respectfully requests allowance of this application. Applicant requests that if there are any impediments to allowance of this application that could be rectified through a telephone discussion, that the Examiner telephone Michael Cooper at 250 389-0387.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 

Robert H. Barrigar

Registration No.: 26,125

MDC:lld

Victoria, British Columbia

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